

Melissa Cline
160 BELMONT ST, Unit D
Santa Cruz CA 95060

Sep 5th 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

American consumers pay some of the highest prices for telecommunication of anyone in the modern world. One reason is that the market is dominated by a few large companies that set crazy-high prices. In many places, these companies are the only options that consumers have.

I am a scientist and often work from home, so I need home broadband. I currently get my broadband from a small, local DSL provider. This option is only viable if my company can rent the copper lines that go into my home, and can do so for a reasonable rate. This is possible only because of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. If this act goes away, and phone companies get the right to jack up rental rates sky-high (or refuse to rent altogether), it would be a disaster for independent ISPs, as well as for many people who live in remote regions where fiber is not available.

Please support local ISPs - do not make this change!

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